

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 7, 2001

LB 432, 620

an issue, especially as serious as this one, and I appreciate them.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Now this isn't a question, this is a statement. I appreciate your answers and candor. It's my understanding that it was only the BN that was doing the genetic testing. I was not aware that Union Pacific was doing any of that testing. You indicate differently, from what I hear you to do, but I'm not aware of those facts. What I...my general observation would be if we're going to not have genetic testing that's something we ought to do across the board and not do in a specific amendment, but I want to listen a little more here before I make a value judgment as to whether to accept or reject this amendment, Senator Chambers. One is I just need to sit down and think about the answers you gave me and what I may do, and I'm...as you say, the body is probably not going anywhere for a few minutes, but I just need a little bit to think about this one and I'll yield my time back. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SENATOR COORDSEN:** Thank you. Senator Brown, please.

**SENATOR BROWN:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is an issue that I have very strong feelings about. You may remember that we have a bill that I was the primary sponsor of and that Senator Chambers was a cosponsor of, LB 432, that's sitting right now on Final Reading, that would preclude companies from using genetic testing, using the results of genetic, forcing an employee or a potential employee to undergo genetic testing, and using that in any way that might discriminate against that employee. I feel that LB 432 needs to be passed. I think that it is a much better way to address this issue than to address it in this bill. I also know from having spent a number of years in this area that just the conversation that Senator Chambers and Senator Kristensen had about what is meant by genetic testing and what is meant by genetic screening, what...what the implications of just having those words without an explanation of what those words mean in legislation is very dangerous. I spent several years looking at legislation and looking at...because this is such a new area the way you define it is critical, and how you define a genetic test is very critical, and so the language in LB 432 is very carefully drawn